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nucleus is obtained by multiplying the mass number by the fundamental unit of mass, 1.6605×10^{-24} grams ($\frac{1}{1836}$ the mass of C^{12} atom)
masso-therapy (mas'ō ther'ō pē) *n.* physical therapy by means of
massage —mas'so-ther-a-pist (-pist) *n.*

mass production the production of goods in large quantities, esp. by machinery and division of labor —**mass-produce** *vt.* —**duced**, —**ducting**

mass spectrograph an instrument for analyzing ionized particles by passing them through electric and magnetic fields, typically designed to focus particles of equal mass to a point where they are detected; used esp. to determine the abundance of chemical compounds or isotopes; also **mass spectrometer**

mass transit a large-scale system of public transportation serving a city or metropolitan area, or such systems collectively

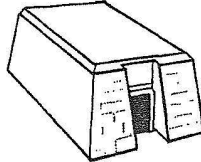
massy (mas'ē) *adj.* **mass'-ler**, **mass'-est** (Now Rare) massive; weighty, bulky, etc. —**mass'-li-ness** *n.*

mast¹ (mast, mäst) *n.* [ME *maste* < OE *mæst*, akin to Ger *mast* < IE **mad-*, a pole, rod > L *malus*, *mast* (< **madus* with Sabine *l* for *d*). It *maide*, a stick] 1 a tall spar or, now often, a hollow metal structure, sometimes in sections, rising vertically from the keel or deck of a vessel and used to support the sails, yards, radar and radio equipment, etc. 2 a specified section of this [the *topmast*] 3 any vertical pole, as in a crane or derrick 4 a metal post for the support of a radio aerial or television antenna *5 [also M-] U.S. Navy a summary session held by the commanding officer to try minor offenses, hear requests, or give commendations: in full **captain's mast** —*vt.* to put a mast or masts on —**before the mast** [quarters for common sailors were formerly located forward of the foremast] (Now Rare) as a common sailor

mast² (mast, mäst) *n.* [ME *maste* < OE *mæst*, akin to Ger *mast* < IE **mad-*, moist, dripping (with fat, sap) > MEAT, Gr *mastos*, a breast] bechnuts, acorns, chestnuts, etc., esp. as food for hogs

mast-combining form MASTO-: used before a vowel

mas-tabā or **mas-tā-bāh** (mas'tā bā) *n.* [Ar *masṭabāh*] an oblong structure with a flat roof and sloping sides, built over the opening of a mummy chamber or burial pit in ancient Egypt and used as a tomb



MASTABA

mast cell [C Ger *mastzelle* < *mast*, food (see MAST²) & *zelle*, cell < OHG *cella* < L: see CELL] a cell containing large, basophilic granules, found in connective and other body tissues

mas-tec-tomy (mas tek'tō mē) *n., pl. -mies [MAST(O)- + -ECTOMY] the surgical removal of all or part of a breast, usually so as to remove cancerous tissue*

mas-ter (mas'tar, mäs'-) *n.* [ME *maistre* < OE *mægester*, *magister* & OFr *maistre*, both < L *magister*, a master, chief, leader, orig., double compar. < base of L *magnus*, great < IE **meg(h)-* > MUCH] 1 a man who rules others or has control, authority, or power over something; specif., a) a man who is head of a household or institution b) an employer c) one who owns a slave or an animal d) the captain of a merchant ship e) the one that excels in a contest, skill, etc.; victor or superior f) (Chiefly Brit.) a male schoolteacher or tutor g) a person whose teachings in religion, philosophy, etc. one follows or professes to follow h) [M-] Jesus Christ (with *our*, *the*, etc.) 2 something regarded as having control, power, etc. 3 a person very skilled and able in some work, profession, science, etc.; expert; specif., a) a highly skilled workman or craftsman qualified to follow his or her trade independently and, usually, to supervise the work of others b) an artist regarded as great c) *Games, Sports* a person recognized as having achieved the highest degree of skill [*chess master*, *golf master*] 4 [M-] a title variously applied to a) [Archaic] any man or youth (now superseded by the variant *Mister*, usually written *Mr.* when placed before the name) b) a boy regarded as too young to be addressed as *Mr.* c) a man who heads some institution, group, activity, or place d) in Scotland, the heir apparent of a viscount or baron 5 a) a metal matrix or mold made from the original recording and used to produce phonograph records in quantity b) a completed tape recording used to produce discs, cassettes, etc. for sale 6 *Law* any of several court officers appointed to assist the judge by hearing evidence, reporting on certain matters, etc. —*adj.* 1 being a master 2 of a master 3 chief; main; controlling; specif., designating a mechanism or contrivance that controls others or sets a standard or norm [a *master switch*, a *master test sheet*] —*vt.* 1 to become master of; control, conquer, etc. 2 [Now Rare] to rule or govern as master 3 to become an expert in [an art, science, etc.] 4 to make a MASTER (sense 5) of

master-at-arms (-ət armz') *n., pl. mas'ters-at-arms'* U.S. Navy a petty officer responsible for keeping order, maintaining discipline, taking charge of prisoners, etc. on a ship or in a shore station

master builder a person skilled in building, as an architect

master chief petty officer U.S. Navy an enlisted person of the highest grade, ranking just above a senior chief petty officer

master class a class taught by an accomplished musician who individually instructs advanced students in performance and technique, often before an audience

mas-ter-dom (mas'tar dam) *n.* [Now Rare] complete control; mastery

mas-ter-ful (mas'tar fəl) *adj.* 1 fond of acting the part of a master; domineering; imperious 2 having or showing the ability of a master; expert; skillful; masterly: usage objected to by some —**mas'-ter-fully** *adv.* —**mas'-ter-ful-ness** *n.*

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masso-therapist / mastodon

SYN—**masterful** implies such strength of personality as enables one to impose his will on others [a *masterful* orchestral conductor]; **domineering** implies the arrogant, tyrannical manner of one who openly tries to dominate another [a *domineering* mother]; **imperious** suggests the arbitrary ruling of an emperor, but connotes less arrogance than **domineering** [the *imperious* old dean of the college]; **magisterial**, while not suggesting an assumption of arbitrary powers, implies an excessive use or display of such inherent powers as a magistrate might have [he dismissed me with a *magisterial* air]

master hand 1 an expert 2 great ability or skill

master key a key that will open every one of a set of locks

mas'terly (mas'tar lē) *adj.* showing the ability or skill of a master; expert [a *masterly* job of repair work] —*adv.* in a masterly manner —**mas'-ter-li-ness** *n.*

master mason 1 a highly skilled mason 2 [often M- M-] a Freemason of the third degree

master-mind (mas'tar mind') *n.* a very intelligent or clever person, esp. one with the ability to plan or direct a group project —*vt.* to be the mastermind of (a project)

Master of Arts (or **Science**, etc.) a degree given by a college or university to a person who has completed a prescribed course of graduate study in the humanities or related studies (or in science, etc.); it ranks above the degree of *Bachelor* and below that of *Doctor*; also **master's (degree)**

master of ceremonies 1 a person who supervises a ceremony *2 a person who presides over an entertainment, as on a radio or television program or in a nightclub, at a banquet, etc., introducing the speakers or performers, filling in the intervals with jokes, etc.

master-piece (mas'tar pēs') *n.* [calque of Ger *meisterstück*] 1 a thing made or done with masterly skill; great work of art or craftsmanship 2 the greatest work made or done by a person or group

Mas'ters (mas'tarz), Edgar Lee 1869-1950; U.S. poet

master sergeant U.S. Mil. a noncommissioned officer of high rank; in the Army, the rank just above sergeant first class; in the Air Force, the rank just above technical sergeant; in the Marine Corps, the rank just above gunnery sergeant

mas'ter-ship (mas'tar ship') *n.* 1 the state of being a master; rule; control; dominion 2 the position, duties, or term of office of a master 3 masterly ability; expert skill or knowledge

master-singer (-sin'ər) *n.* [calque of Ger *meistersinger*] MEISTER-SINGER

master-stroke (-strōk') *n.* a masterly action, move, or achievement

master tape MASTER (*n.* 5b)

master-work (-wɜrk') *n.* MASTERPIECE

mas'tery (mas'tar ē, mäs'-) *n., pl. -ter-ies* [ME *maistrie* < OFr: see MASTER] 1 mastership; rule; control 2 ascendancy or victory in struggle or competition; the upper hand 3 masterly ability; expert skill or knowledge [his *mastery* of chess] 4 the act of mastering (an art, science, etc.)

mast-head (mast'hed') *n.* 1 the top part of a ship's mast *2 a box or section printed in each issue of a newspaper or magazine, giving the publishers, owners, and editors, the location of the offices, subscription rates, etc. 3 NAMEPLATE (sense 2) —*vt.* 1 to send (a sailor) to the masthead as a punishment 2 to hoist to or display at the masthead

mas'tic (mas'tik) *n.* [ME *mastik* < OFr *mastic* < LL *masticum* < L *mastiche* < Gr *masticē*, akin to *mastician*: see fol.] 1 a yellowish resin obtained from a small Mediterranean evergreen (*Pistacia lentiscus*) of the cashew family, used as an astringent and in making varnish, adhesives, etc. 2 the tree: in full **mastic tree** 3 any of various pasty substances used as adhesives, sealants, etc.

mas'ti-cate (mas'ti kāt') *vt.* —*cat'ed*, —*cat'-ing* [C LL *masticatus*, pp. of *masticare*, to chew < Gr *mastician*, to grind the teeth, gnash < *mastax*, a mouth, morsel < IE base **menth-*, to chew, mouth > MOUTH, L *mandere*, to chew] 1 to chew up (food, etc.) 2 to grind, cut, or knead (rubber, etc.) to a pulp —**mas'-ti-ca'-tion** *n.* —**mas'-ti-ca'-tor** *n.*

mas'ti-ca-tory (-kə tōr'ē) *adj.* of or for mastication; specif., adapted for chewing —*n., pl. -ries* any substance to be chewed but not swallowed, as a medicine

mas-tiff (mas'tif) *n.* [ME *mastif* < OFr *mastin* < VL **mansuetinus* < L *mansuetus*, tame; ME form infl. by OFr *mestif*, a mongrel < L *mixtus*, mixed: see MIX] any of a breed of large, powerful dog with hanging lips and drooping ears and having a short, thick, often fawn-colored coat, dark on the muzzle, nose, and ears: formerly used for hunting, now often a watchdog and guard dog; also called Old English mastiff

mas'ti-gopho-ran (mas'ti gāf'ə ran) *n.* [C ModL *Mastigophora* (< Gr *mastix*, gen. *mastigos*, a whip + ModL *-phora*, fem. of *-phoros*: see -PHORE) + -AN] any of a subphylum (Mastigophora) of protozoans, sometimes parasitic, having flagella: certain classes, as dinoflagellates, are also classified as algae by botanists —*adj.* of or relating to the mastigophorans —**mas'-ti-goph'o-rous** (-rəs) *adj.*

mas'ti-tis (mas'ti'tis) *n.* [C Gr *mastos*, a breast + -ITIS] inflammation of the breast or udder

masto- (mas'tō, -tə) [C Gr *mastos*, a breast: see MAST²] combining form of or like a breast, or mammary gland [*mastectomy*]

mas-to-don (mas'tō dān') *n.* [C Fr *mastodonte*, coined (1806) by CUVIER < Gr *mastos* (see prec.) + *odont-*, stem of *odous*, TOOTH: from the nipplelike processes on its molar] any of an extinct family

See the inside front cover for pronunciation information.
 The symbol * is used to mark terms of American origin.